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United States of America

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
  
Plaintiff,  
  
v.  
DENIS GUTSU and  
MAXIM GUTSU,  
  
Defendants.

CASE NO. 2:23-cr-0272 DAD

STIPULATION AND JOINT REQUEST FOR  
PROTECTIVE ORDER; PROTECTIVE ORDER

**I. STIPULATION**

1. Plaintiff United States of America, by and through its counsel of record, and Defendant Maxim Gutsu, by and through his counsel of record, for the reasons set forth below, hereby stipulate, agree, and jointly request that the Court enter a Protective Order in this case restricting the use and dissemination of certain materials containing personal identifying information of real persons and other confidential information of victims, witnesses, and third parties.

2. On October 19, 2023, the Grand Jury returned an indictment charging Denis Gutsu and Maxim Gutsu with one count of Money Laundering Conspiracy, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1956(h).

3. As part of its investigation in the above-captioned case, the United States is in possession of materials relating to the charges against Maxim Gutsu and seeks to provide those materials to Gutsu's counsel. Some of the materials may exceed the scope of the United States' discovery obligations but will be produced to promote a prompt and just resolution or trial of the case.

1           4.       The United States intends to produce to the Defense Team, as defined below, materials  
2 containing personal identifying information (“PII”) and other confidential information of real persons  
3 and entities, including, among other things, addresses, phone numbers, Social Security numbers, and  
4 bank account numbers. Those real persons and entities are victims, witnesses, or third parties to this  
5 case.

6           5.       The purpose of the proposed Protective Order is to prevent the unauthorized  
7 dissemination, distribution, or use of materials containing PII and confidential information of others. If  
8 this information is disclosed without protective measures, or to defendant without limitation, it will risk  
9 the privacy and security of the people to whom the information relates. The information could itself be  
10 used to further criminal activity if improperly disclosed or used. The United States has ongoing  
11 statutory and ethical obligations to protect victims.

12           6.       Due to the nature of the charges and the alleged conduct in this case, PII and other  
13 confidential information make up a significant part of the discovery materials in this case and such  
14 information itself, in many instances, has evidentiary value. The documentary evidence contains a large  
15 quantity of privacy-protected information that would be difficult or time-consuming to redact. Further,  
16 if the government were to attempt to redact all this information, the defense would receive a set of  
17 discovery that may be confusing and difficult to understand, and it could inhibit prompt and just  
18 resolution of the case or preparation for trial.

19           7.       Accordingly, the parties jointly request a Protective Order that will permit the United  
20 States to produce discovery that is unredacted while preserving the privacy and security of victims,  
21 witnesses, and third parties. The parties agree that the following conditions, if ordered by the Court in  
22 the proposed Protective Order, will serve the government’s interest in maintaining the privacy and  
23 security of victims and third parties, while permitting the Defense Team to understand the United States’  
24 evidence against the defendant.

25           8.       This Court may enter protective orders pursuant to Rule 16(d) of the Federal Rules of  
26 Criminal Procedure, Local Rule 141.1, and its general supervisory authority.

**II. PROPOSED PROTECTIVE ORDER**

**A. Protected Materials**

9. This Order pertains to all discovery provided or made available to defense counsel in this case that contains unredacted “Personal Identifying Information” or other confidential third-party information (collectively, “Protected Materials”).

10. For purposes of the Protective Order, the term “Personal Identifying Information” (“PII”) includes any information within the definition of a “means of identification” under 18 U.S.C. § 1028(d)(7), other than names, and any information within the definition of an “access device” under 18 U.S.C. § 1029(e)(1), for anyone other than the defendant.

11. To the extent that notes are made that memorialize, in whole or in part, the PII in any Protected Materials, or to the extent that copies are made for authorized use by members of the Defense Team, such notes, copies, or reproductions become Protected Materials, subject to the Protective Order, and must be handled in accordance with the terms of the Protective Order.

**B. Defense Team**

12. For purposes of this Order, the term “Defense Counsel” refers to the defendant’s counsel of record.

13. For purposes of this Order, the term “Defense Team” refers to (1) Defense Counsel, (2) other attorneys at Defense Counsel’s law firm or defense organization who may be consulted regarding case strategy in the above-captioned matter, (3) defense investigators who are assisting Defense Counsel with this case, (4) retained experts or potential experts, and (5) paralegals, legal assistants, and other support staff to Defendant’s Counsel assisting on this case. The term “Defense Team” does not include defendant, the defendant’s family, or other associates of the defendant.

14. Defense Counsel must provide a copy of this Order to all members of the Defense Team and must obtain written acknowledgement from members of the Defense Team that they are bound by the terms and conditions of this Protective Order, prior to providing any Protected Materials to the members of the Defense Team. The written acknowledgement need not be disclosed or produced to the United States unless ordered by the Court.

1           **C.     Disclosure of Protected Materials**

2           15.     The Defense Team shall not permit anyone other than the Defense Team to have  
3 possession of the Protected Materials, including the defendant.

4           16.     No person or party shall use any Protected Materials or information derived from  
5 Protected Materials produced in this action for any purpose other than use in the above-captioned case.  
6 All Protected Materials shall be used solely for the purpose of conducting and preparing for pre-trial,  
7 trial, post-trial, and appellate proceedings (both direct and collateral) and in this criminal action for no  
8 other purposes whatsoever, and shall not be used for the economic or other benefit of the defendant, or  
9 any third party. Protected Materials may be disclosed only to the categories of persons and under the  
10 conditions described in this Order.

11           17.     The defendant may review Protected Materials in this case only in the presence of a  
12 member of the Defense Team, and Defense Counsel shall ensure the defendant is never left alone with  
13 any Protected Materials. The defendant may not copy, keep, maintain, or otherwise possess any of the  
14 Protected Materials at any time. The defendant must return any Protected Materials to the Defense  
15 Team at the conclusion of any meeting at which the defendant reviews the Protected Materials. The  
16 defendant may not take any Protected Materials out of the room in which he is meeting with the Defense  
17 Team. The defendant may not write down or memorialize any PII contained in the Protected Materials.  
18 At the conclusion of any meeting with the defendant, the member of the Defense Team present shall  
19 take with him or her all Protected Materials. At no time, under any circumstances, will any Protected  
20 Materials be left in the possession, custody, or control of the defendant, whether or not he is  
21 incarcerated.

22           18.     The Defense Team may review Protected Materials with a witness or potential witness in  
23 this case, including the defendant, subject to the requirement above that a member of the Defense Team  
24 must be present if Protected Materials are being shown to the defendant. Before being shown any  
25 portion of the Protected Materials, however, any witness or potential witness must be informed of the  
26 existence of the Protective Order and given a copy of the Protective Order. No witness or potential  
27 witness (other than members of the Defense Team) may retain Protected Materials, or any copy thereof,  
28 after his or her review of those materials with the Defense Team is complete.

1           19.     This Order does not limit employees of the United States Attorney’s Office for the  
2 Eastern District of California from disclosing the Protected Materials to members of the United States  
3 Attorney’s Office, law enforcement agencies, the Court, and defense.

4           20.     Defense Counsel shall advise the United States with reasonable notice of any subpoenas,  
5 document requests, or claims for access to the Protected Materials by third parties if Defense Counsel is  
6 considering disseminating any of the Protected Materials to a third party, so the United States may take  
7 action to resist or comply with such demands as it may deem appropriate.

8           **D.     Ensuring Security of Protected Materials**

9           21.     The Defense Team shall maintain the Protected Materials safely and securely, and shall  
10 exercise reasonable care in ensuring the security and confidentiality of the Protected Materials by storing  
11 the Protected Materials in a secure place, such as a locked office, or otherwise secure facility where  
12 visitors are not left unescorted.

13          22.     A copy of the Protective Order must be stored with the discovery, in paper form or  
14 electronically.

15          23.     To the extent that Protected Materials, or any copies or reproductions thereof, are stored  
16 electronically, the Protected Materials will be stored on a password-protected or encrypted storage  
17 medium, including a password-protected computer, or device. Any passwords and encryption keys must  
18 be stored securely and not written on the storage media that they unlock.

19          24.     If a member of the Defense Team makes, or causes to be made, any further copies of any  
20 of the Protected Materials, Defense Counsel will ensure that the following notation is written, stamped,  
21 or inscribed on whatever folder, container, or media contains the copies: “PROTECTED MATERIALS-  
22 SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER.” For example, if Defense Counsel makes a copy of a disc or  
23 physical file containing Protected Materials, the duplicate disc or file must be marked with the above  
24 notation.

25           **E.     Filings**

26          25.     In the event a party needs to file Protected Materials containing PII or materials otherwise  
27 identified as containing confidential information of victims, witnesses, or third parties with the Court, or  
28 disclose PII in court filings, the filing should be made under seal or with all PII or confidential materials

1 redacted. If the Court rejects the request to file such information under seal, the party seeking to file  
2 such information shall provide advance written notice to the other party to afford such party an  
3 opportunity to object or otherwise respond to such intention. If the other party does not object to the  
4 proposed filing, the party seeking to file such information shall redact the PII or confidential materials  
5 and make all reasonable attempts to limit the divulging PII or confidential materials.

6 **F. Conclusion of Prosecution**

7 26. The provisions of this Order shall not terminate at the conclusion of this prosecution. All  
8 Protected Materials subject to the Protective Order maintained in the Defense Team's files shall remain  
9 subject to the Protective Order unless and until such Order is modified by the Court.

10 27. Upon final disposition of the case, including exhaustion of direct and collateral appellate  
11 proceedings, Defense Counsel shall return the Protected Materials to the government, or certify in  
12 writing that the Protected Materials have been destroyed, unless the California Rules of Professional  
13 Conduct, as interpreted by the State Bar of California, require Defense Counsel to retain the material for  
14 a longer duration of time. The written certification need not be disclosed or produced to the United  
15 States unless ordered by the Court.

16 **G. Termination or Substitution of Counsel**

17 28. In the event there is a substitution of counsel prior to final disposition of the case,  
18 new counsel of record must join this Protective Order before any Protected Materials may be transferred  
19 from the undersigned defense counsel to the new defense counsel. New defense counsel then will  
20 become Defense Counsel for purposes of this Protective Order, and become the Defense Team's  
21 custodian of materials, and shall then become responsible, upon the conclusion of appellate and post-  
22 conviction proceedings, for complying with the provisions set forth in this Protective Order. All  
23 members of the Defense Team, whether current or past counsel, are at all times subject to the Protective  
24 Order and are not relieved by termination of representation or conclusion of the prosecution.

25 **H. Redaction of Protected Materials**

26 29. Nothing in this Order shall prevent the United States Attorney's Office from redacting  
27 PII or other confidential information in any Protected Materials related to the identity of cooperators and  
28 informants.

**I. Modification of Order**

30. Nothing in this Order shall prevent any party from seeking modification of the Order or from objecting to discovery it otherwise believes to be improper. Nothing in this Order shall prevent any party from seeking a more restrictive protective order with regard to particular discovery items.

**J. Violation of Order**

31. Any person who willfully violates this Order may be held in contempt of court and may be subject to monetary or other sanctions as deemed appropriate by the Court. This provision does not expand or narrow the Court's contempt powers.

**K. Application of Laws**

32. Nothing in this Order shall be construed to affect or comment on the admissibility or discoverability of the Protected Materials.

33. Nothing in this Order shall be construed to affect the application of and the parties' compliance with the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, Local Rules, and applicable statutes.

Dated: November 9, 2023

PHILLIP A. TALBERT  
United States Attorney

/s/ NICHOLAS M. FOGG  
NICHOLAS M. FOGG  
Assistant U.S. Attorney

Dated: November 9, 2023

/s/ TIMOTHY ZINDEL  
TIMOTHY ZINDEL  
Counsel for Defendant  
Maxim Gutsu

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**PROTECTIVE ORDER**

The Court having read and considered the Stipulation and Joint Request for Protective Order, which this Court incorporates by reference into this Order in full, hereby finds that good cause exists to enter the above Order.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED

Dated: November 9, 2023



DEBORAH BARNES  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE